(c) To regulate *inter-alia* the manufacture, import and sale of pesticides in the country, Government of India has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 and has made Rules thereunder. Under the Act, manufacturers of insecticides must obtain a manufacturing license from the State Government and the product registration from the Central Government. The enforcement of provisions of the Act relating to manufacture and sale of insecticides primarily rests with the State Governments. The State Governments have set up 54 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories. Samples of pesticides are taken regularly for testing in the laboratories. The Central Government has set up a Central Insecticides Laboratory under section 16 of the Act to perform the statutory role of referral analysis. There are provisions in the Act to provide punishment to the offenders.

The Central Government has also conducted awareness campaign by way of advertisements in national as well as local newspapers against spurious pesticides.

Joint venture by NAFED

†788. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the company with which investment was made in the joint venture by NAFED from the year 2003 till date together with the amount invested and when;

(b) the level at which the decision for joint venture was taken;

(c) whether NAFED had any expertise in the matter of business done by it;

(d) the source from where the fund was arranged for this business by 'NAFED'; and

(e) the amount of profit earned or loss incurred by NAFED in this joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) NAFED has reported that it has not made any investment under joint venture with any company from the year 2003 till date. However, NAFED has reported that it has diversified its business activities and undertaken new business initiatives in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode (Tie-up business) on the pattern followed by other PSUs like STC, MMTC and PEC etc. Under this arrangement, NAFED has invested an amount of Rs.3962.24 crore with 62 parties. A statement giving details of 62 parties as on 31.8.2008, with whom NAFED has undertaken PPP business, is given in the statement [*See* Appendix 214 Annexure No.7] The decision to enter into Tie-up business in PPP mode was taken with the approval of NAFED's Board of Directors on commercial considerations.

(d) NAFED has borrowed funds from commercial banks for undertaking business under PPP arrangement.

(e) As reported by NAFED, it had earned profit of Rs.88.38 crore from PPP (Tie-up) business from 2003-04 to 2005-06. However, during 2007-08, NAFED has suffered a net loss of Rs.56.69 crore due to huge interest liability of the PPP (Tie-up) business on account on non-payment by Tie-up business associates for an outstanding amount of Rs. 1429.87 crore comprising principal amount of Rs. 1076.18 crore and Rs.353.69 crore towards interest and service charges.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.